

ASCK-DH

McKinney of Connecticut
said you correctly—"I
King got killed." Do

statement?

read in the paper"?
said—let's see, how
man were the same
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mbia, Mr. Fauntroy.
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to believe that Dr.
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questions.
McKinney?
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did you break off your

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contact you and ques-

Mr. BYERS. No; I made it very clear why I was going to leave the scene.

Mr. McKINNEY. At the time that you said you were going to leave the scene, did he make any mention of the fact that he had taken you out and gotten you a "hit" offer?

Mr. BYERS. No.

Mr. McKINNEY. I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Byers, one other question. I want to put something in perspective. Are you aware of how the FBI became aware that this offer had been made to you?

Mr. BYERS. Only what I read in the paper.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us what that is?

Mr. BYERS. That I unconsciously had told someone of this offer, an informant at the time to the FBI, and the FBI wrote it down and misfiled it for 5 years. That's all I am aware of.

Chairman STOKES. This would have been in 1973 that you were talking with a person who was an FBI informant; isn't that correct?

Mr. BYERS. That's correct.

Chairman STOKES. And you mentioned this incident to that individual, not knowing the individual was an FBI informant; is that right?

Mr. BYERS. That's correct.

Chairman STOKES. And then, as a consequence of your having stated it to him, the FBI informant did inform the FBI of it, but they then misfiled the memorandum in which they had put it; is that your understanding?

Mr. BYERS. That's the way I read it in the paper.

Chairman STOKES. Now, in 1973, after you had talked with this individual who you now know to be an FBI informant—

Mr. BYERS. No, I do not know him to be an FBI informant, because I don't know who it was.

Chairman STOKES. I see; but you do recall you talked to someone about this?

Mr. BYERS. Evidently I did.

Chairman STOKES. Has the FBI ever been to you, to interrogate you about the story?

Mr. BYERS. Been to me to interrogate me about the story? You mean, when the man give it to him in 1973?

Chairman STOKES. My question really is, has the FBI ever been to you to find out from you about this incident?

Mr. BYERS. About the offer being made to me?

Chairman STOKES. Right.

Mr. BYERS. No.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you.

One further question: As I understand you, you don't know who it was you talked to in 1973, who was the informant; is that correct?

Mr. BYERS. That's correct.

Chairman STOKES. Well, were you in the habit of talking to a lot of people about this incident?

Mr. BYERS. No, but maybe when I was drinking, you know, could have been any one of a thousand people I might have told it to, you

Mr. BYERS. Evidently I told this story to someone whom I cannot recall telling this story to, is what I am trying to say; and I am trying to give you a reason for why I may do this.

Mr. BYERS. Yes.

I have no further questions.

Mr. FAUNTROY. No, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BLAKEY, Mr. Chairman, there is one matter I would like to follow up on.

Mr. BYERS. No. Who would tell me?

Mr. BYERS. Oh, naturally, it has my curiosity aroused. I would be a fool if it didn't; but I just—I don't know who it would have been.

Mr. BYERS. You mean, such as legal counsel, like—

Mr. BYERS. Talking about legal counsel?

Mr. BLAKEY. Right; a lawyer.

Mr. BLAKEY. Did you have any conversations with Mr. Randall about the informant?

Mr. BLAKEY. Did you ever speculate to Mr. Randall who the informant might have been?

Mr. BYERS. I can't remember that.

Mr. BLAKEY. Did he ever speculate to you who the informant might have been?

Mr. BYERS. I can't remember that. Whenever me and Mr. Randall talked, we just talked a lot and didn't really say anything.

Mr. BLAKEY. Did you ever have any conversations with Mr. Randall in 1973 about the offer?

Mr. BYERS. About the offer?

Mr. BLAKEY. And the fact that—

Mr. BYERS. I had conversations with Mr. Randall a long time before 1973 about the offer.

Mr. BLAKEY. Right, but my question is directed to 1973.

Mr. BYERS. Well, I can't remember specifically in 1973. I may have had—I would say yes, but I could not swear to it.

Mr. BYERS. Yes.

Mr. BLAKEY. Did you have either you or he speculated :

Mr. BYERS. Oh, possibly so.

Mr. BLAKEY. When did it come out that the informant had given this information?

Mr. BYERS. When a reporter told me.

Mr. BLAKEY. When did that

Mr. BYERS. After I was here

Mr. BLAKEY. I'm somewhat confused. I am asking the question has

Is it that you did not know
New York Times reporter ta

until after your appearance speculated about an informant Randall in 1973.

Mr. BYERS. I misunderstood even know an informant exists following your questioning a while if we discussed an informant in

Mr. BLAKEY. That's correct.

Mr. BYERS. No. How could
know there was one?

Mr. BLAKEY. So your testi-
lieve, and it is true—that you
ant until after the New York

Mr. BYERS. Oh, yes, I didn't and Mr. Waxman came to me and you knew anything about it. ?

Mr. BLAKEY. Fine.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further recognition?
Chairman STOKES. Is any other recognition?

Mr. BYERS. It may be necessary to come back later today. For that reason, I will not have the report available this morning and afternoon.

For the time being, this do
committee, and at the conclu
witness or his counsel may

during a 5-minute period. Do explain your testimony in as you so desire on your testimony.

I would extend to you—to
time 5 minutes for that purp

Mr. BYERS. I can't think of

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Har

Mr. HAMILTON. No comment.

Chairman STOKES. Then at
admonish all persons in the

Thank you very much and

Thank you very much and

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Randall a long time

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Mr. BLAKEY. Did you ever have any conversations with Mr. Weenick in 1973 or thereafter about the offer?

Mr. BYERS. Yes.

Mr. BLAKEY. Did you have any discussions with him in which either you or he speculated about who the informant might be?

Mr. BYERS. Oh, possibly so.

Mr. BLAKEY. When did it come to your attention that the informant had given this information to the FBI?

Mr. BYERS. When a reporter from the New York Times came and told me.

Mr. BLAKEY. When did that occur?

Mr. BYERS. After I was here at the committee last time.

Mr. BLAKEY. I'm somewhat confused, Mr. Byers. Perhaps the way I am asking the question has confused you.

Is it that you did not know that the informant had, until the New York Times reporter talked to you, and that did not occur until after your appearance on May 9, 1978? You couldn't have speculated about an informant with either Mr. Weenick or Mr. Randall in 1973.

Mr. BYERS. I misunderstood your question a while ago. I didn't even know an informant existed until—like I say—1978. I wasn't following your questioning a while ago. Did you ask me a while ago if we discussed an informant in 1973?

Mr. BLAKEY. That's correct.

Mr. BYERS. No. How could we discuss it when we didn't even know there was one?

Mr. BLAKEY. So your testimony is—and you would have us believe, and it is true—that you had no discussions about an informant until after the New York Times article?

Mr. BYERS. Oh, yes, I didn't even know—when Mr. Conrad Baetz and Mr. Waxman came to my home—this is the first I knew that you knew anything about it. That's the first I knew.

Mr. BLAKEY. Fine.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Chairman STOKES. Is any member of the committee seeking further recognition?

Mr. BYERS. It may be necessary for the committee to call you back later today. For that reason, we would ask that you remain available this morning and a portion of the afternoon.

For the time being, this does conclude your testimony before the committee, and at the conclusion of a witness' testimony, either the witness or his counsel may make a statement to this committee during a 5-minute period. During that period you may amplify or explain your testimony in any way or make any further comment you so desire on your testimony before this committee.

I would extend to you—to either you or Mr. Hamilton—at this time 5 minutes for that purpose, if you so desire.

Mr. BYERS. I can't think of anything I would like to add.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Hamilton?

Mr. HAMILTON. No comments.

Chairman STOKES. Then at this time the Chair would once again admonish all persons in the room to please remain seated until such time as the witness has left the hearing room.

Thank you very much and you are excused, Mr. Byers.